City of Chicago

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FROM: ROBERT J. REPEL

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WARREN E. SILVER (Phone: 312-686-3558) (FAX: 312-894-3939)

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City of Chicago Richard M. Daley, Mayor

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COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS 2700 SOUTH CALIFORNIA AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60608 (312) 890-6876

MICHAEL F. SHEAHAN SHERIFF

J.W. FAIRMAN, JR. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FROM: .	J. W. Fairman Executive Dire	. Jr.		PAGES TO FOL	LOW:	2
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92-17





2700 South California Avenue / Chicago, Illinois 60608 / 312-890-6876

July 25, 1994

RECEIVED

'AUG 1 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMANICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The purpose of this letter is to voice opposition to the proposed introduction of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at correctional facilities. BPP, while it may benefit ordinary users, will detriment the security and control of operations if applied to the phone use of inmate populations. Specifically:

- (1) BPP will disable the continuation of a working relationship with a single carrier. This relationship is important in that it enables comforting levels of trust and confidence in service. The benefit of a single carrier rests in contractual obligation, commitment and experience, all of which will be lost if carriers can be freely selected.
- (2) BPP will eliminate a source of current revenue which ensures the provision and maintenance of quality phone equipment. Without this revenue, quality assurance is threatened and the possibility of inoperative inmate phones is considerable. This possibility has serious implications on our ability to effectively manage and control inmates in the event of discontinued or disrupted phone service.
- (3) A purpose of BPP, to ensure fair rates, can be achieved in correctional facilities without the imposition of BPP. A more effective and less consequential solution would be to introduce rate ceilings on all inmate calls and to require agencies to enforce and ensure these ceilings through independent contracts. In this way, the introduction of price control could not be at the expense of existing operational benefits.

The Honorable Recd E.Hundt Page Two 7/25/94

These implications suggest that BPP, while it may solve one problem, will actually introduce several others in the process. Any and all reconsideration of this initiative is appreciated.

Sincerely,

 W. Fairman, Jr. Executive Director

JWF/pjh



23860

Paul R. Nicholson

SHERIFF

City of Hopewell Decket Fle cosy calcinal

Virginia

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF P.O. BOX 1193

HOPEWELL, VA 23860

(804) 541-2300



MEMBER OF VIRGINIA STATE SHERRIFF'S ASSN.

JULY 27, 1994

The Honorable Susan Ness Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No.92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Commissioner Ness

WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE APPLICATION OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE (BPP) AT INMATE FACILITIES.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility, the Hopewell City Jail, and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and a few that will be trained to handle inmate calls. We see our Inmate Phone Technician "Bob Mitchell" three times a week when he comes by our facility. Bob drops by to update the equipment or just to besure everything is operating smooth. Bob has become a friend of ours and he knows our needs.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specilically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls and other criminal activity over the telephone network. We just had our equipment installed in the last year. Before the equipment was installed we were receiving complaints from citizens through out the state who were receiving unwanted phone calls from our inmates. Before a murder trial a key witness for the state received threating phone calls, believed to have been made by inmate(s) incarcerated in our facility. We have seen phone bills coming to inmates for \$1,000.00's where they had used thier or a stolen Calling Card. In some instances one of the inmates would get a calling card number and pass it through out the facility. With the Inmate Phone System we have now, we are able to stop all of these problems and more if they should arise. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us like Bob Mitchell does. Without inmate phone the morale of our inmates will be devasted. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable. Our facility has not received any complaints from the inmate's family due to the cost.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions --- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectifully submitted,

Sheriff Paul R-Nicholson